

CLAIMS

1. A method for substantially reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses caused by the presence of targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogens in meat by inhibiting the ability of the immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the immunogen to multiply, said method comprising:

A. Inoculating female birds, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with the particular targeted illnesses-causing immunogen;

B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the bird of antibody to the targeted immunogen;

C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the birds;

D. Separating the antibody-containing contents of said eggs from the shells;

E. Drying said separated antibody-containing contents of said eggs;

F. Distributing the resulting dried egg antibody product substantially uniformly through an animal feed or water; and

G. Supplying the resulting antibody-containing animal feed or water to food animals to substantially prevent adherence of the targeted immunogen in the intestinal tract of the animals.

2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein: said illness-causing immunogen is selected from the class consisting of *E. coli*, *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*.

3. The method according to Claim 1 including: providing a dry feed carrier, said drying of the antibody-containing contents of said eggs is achieved by coating the dry feed carrier with said separated antibody-containing contents of said eggs.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein: providing a dry feed carrier material from a group of materials including soybean hulls, rice hulls, corn, cottonseed hulls, distilled dried grains and beet pulp.

5. A method for substantially reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses caused by the presence of a colony-forming illness-causing *E. coli* immunogen in meat by inhibiting the ability of the *E. coli* immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the *E. coli* immunogen to multiply, said method comprising:

- A. Inoculating female birds, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with the illness-causing *E. coli* immunogen;
- B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the bird of antibody to the *E. coli* immunogen;
- C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the birds;
- D. Separating the antibody-containing contents of said eggs from the shells;
- E. Drying said separated egg antibody material;
- F. Distributing the resulting dried egg antibody product substantially uniformly through an animal feed or water; and
- G. Supplying the resulting antibody-containing animal feed or water to food animals to substantially prevent adherence of the *E. coli* immunogen in the intestinal tract of the animal.

6. The method according to Claim 5 including: providing a dry feed carrier, said drying of the antibody-containing contents of said eggs is achieved by coating the dry feed carrier with said separated antibody-containing contents of said eggs.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein: providing a dry feed carrier material from a group of materials including soybean hulls, rice hulls, corn, cottonseed hulls, distilled dried grains and beet pulp.

8. A method for substantially reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses caused by the presence of a colony-forming illness-causing *Listeria* immunogen in meat by inhibiting the ability of the *Listeria* immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the *Listeria* immunogen to multiply, said method comprising:

- A. Inoculating female birds, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with the illness-causing *Listeria* immunogen;
- B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the bird of antibody to the *Listeria* immunogen;
- C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the birds;
- D. Separating the antibody-containing contents of said eggs from the shells;
- E. Drying said separated egg antibody material;
- F. Distributing the resulting dried egg antibody product substantially uniformly through an animal feed or water; and
- G. Supplying the resulting antibody-containing animal feed or water to food animals to substantially prevent adherence of the *Listeria* immunogen in the intestinal tract of the animal.

9. The method according to Claim 8 including: providing a dry feed carrier, said drying of the antibody-containing contents of said eggs is achieved by coating the dry feed carrier with said separated antibody-containing contents of said eggs.

10. The method of Claim 9 wherein: providing a dry feed carrier material from a group of materials including soybean hulls, rice hulls, corn, cottonseed hulls, distilled dried grains and beet pulp.

11. A method for substantially reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses caused by the presence of a colony-forming illness-causing Salmonella immunogen in meat by inhibiting the ability of the Salmonella immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the Salmonella immunogen to multiply, said method comprising:

- A. Inoculating female birds, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with the illness-causing Salmonella immunogen;
- B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the bird of antibody to the Salmonella immunogen;
- C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the birds;
- D. Separating the antibody-containing contents of said eggs from the shells;
- E. Drying said separated egg antibody material;
- F. Distributing the resulting dried egg antibody product substantially uniformly through an animal feed or water; and
- G. Supplying the resulting antibody-containing animal feed or water to food animals to substantially prevent adherence of the Salmonella immunogen in the intestinal tract of the animal.

12. The method according to Claim 11 including: providing a dry feed carrier, said drying of the antibody-containing contents of said eggs is achieved by coating the dry feed carrier with said separated antibody-containing contents of said eggs.

13. The method of Claim 12 wherein: providing a dry feed carrier material from a group of materials including soybean hulls, rice hulls, corn, cottonseed hulls, distilled dried grains and beet pulp.

14. A method for substantially reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses caused by the presence of a colony-forming illness-causing Campylobacter immunogen in meat by inhibiting the ability of the Campylobacter immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the Campylobacter immunogen to multiply, said method comprising:

- A. Inoculating female birds, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with the illness-causing Campylobacter immunogen;
- B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the bird of antibody to the Campylobacter immunogen;
- C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the birds;
- D. Separating the antibody-containing contents of said eggs from the shells;
- E. Drying said separated egg antibody material;
- F. Distributing the resulting dried egg antibody product substantially uniformly through an animal feed or water; and
- G. Supplying the resulting antibody-containing animal feed or water to food animals to substantially prevent adherence of the Campylobacter immunogen in the intestinal tract of the animal.

15. The method according to Claim 14 including: providing a dry feed carrier, said drying of the antibody-containing contents of said eggs is achieved by coating the dry feed carrier with said separated antibody-containing contents of said eggs.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein: providing a dry feed carrier material from a group of materials including soybean hulls, rice hulls, corn, cottonseed hulls, distilled dried grains and beet pulp.

17. A method for substantially reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses caused by the presence of targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogens in meat by inhibiting the ability of the immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the immunogen to multiply, said method comprising:

A. Inoculating female birds, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with the particular targeted illnesses-causing immunogen;

B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the bird of antibody to the targeted immunogen;

C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the birds;

D. Separating the antibody-containing contents of said eggs from the shells;

E. Providing a dry feed carrier material;

F. Coating said dry feed carrier material with the antibody-containing contents of said eggs;

G. Distributing said carrier material coated with the antibody-containing contents of said eggs substantially uniformly in animal feed; and

H. Supplying the resulting dry carrier material coated with the antibody-containing contents of said eggs and animal feed to food animals to substantially prevent adherence of the immunogen in the rumen or intestinal tracts of the animals.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein: providing a dry feed carrier material from a group of materials including soybean hulls, rice hulls, corn, cottonseed hulls, distilled dried grains and beet pulp.